

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of October 4, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-12 and 17-26 stand allowed.

Claims 14 and 15 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claims 13 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Valenton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,536,068) in view of Morris (U.S. Patent No. 6,354,231).

The Claims of the Present Application Distinguish Over the Cited References

Claim 13 recites means for providing tactile feedback to a user. An element in a claim expressed as a means for performing a specified function shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof (see 35 USC §112, ¶6 and In re Donaldson, 16 F.3 1189 (Fed. Cir. 1994)). Therefore, the means for providing tactile feedback to a user recited in **claim 13** should be construed to at least cover the corresponding structure disclosed in the application. The application discloses a first embodiment, which is a tab **50** that transitions between threaded portions **52a1**, **52a2** and space **56** along with any equivalents thereof. A second embodiment disclosed by the application is a tab **50** that encounters indicators **54** along with any equivalents thereof.

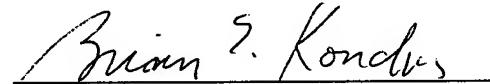
Neither Valenton et al. nor Morris discloses, or is concerned with, providing such a means for providing tactile feedback to a user or equivalents thereof. Therefore, **claim 13**, along with **claims 14-16** which depend therefrom, are patentable over the combination of Valenton et al. and Morris.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Early notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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